



## ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
420 West State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288  
815-987-5800

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHET EPPERSON  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# TRAFFIC RELEASE

**DATE & TIME**      05/16/11 11:40 AM

**Bureau:**              Support Services Bureau

**Authorized Supervisor:**    Lieutenant Christine Bishop

**Phone:**                815-987-5835

**Incident:**              Seat Belt Detail

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### MESSAGE



In 2010 The Illinois Department of Transportation completed a survey of safety belt usage in Illinois. 136,364 vehicle occupants were viewed. Of those occupants, 92.6 percent were found to be using a safety belt. This year the Rockford Police Department would like to see that number at 100 percent.

According to data collected by the Illinois Department of Transportation, there have been a total of 228 fatal accidents year to date in the state of Illinois. Of those accidents, 73 of the occupants either did not have on a safety restraint or did not use them correctly.

The Rockford Police Department will join state and local law enforcement officers for the 2011 Click It or Ticket safety belt enforcement campaign, May 13-30. During the campaign, officers will be cracking down both day and night on motorists who fail to wear their safety belt.

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Because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among those least likely to buckle up and therefore more likely to die in motor vehicle crashes, nighttime enforcement has become a priority of the Click It or Ticket campaign. Of those who died nationwide in nighttime crashes in 2009, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) were not wearing a safety belt at the time of their fatal crash.

The Rockford Police Department will be participating in a series of details to locate persons who are not compliant with the seatbelt laws during the Memorial Day Holiday season. The Rockford Police are able to participate in these special details due to a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Seat belts save lives. Buckle up Rockford.

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